



Fact Sheet

United States Navy

Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command
Public Affairs and Corporate Communications
4301 Pacific Highway, San Diego CA 92110-3127
Telephone: 619-524-3432/3/4 FAX: 619-524-3469

MIDS-LVT Program Overview

(Multifunctional Information Distribution System- Low Volume Terminal)

The MIDS-LVT is a joint service, multinational cooperative development program established to design, develop, and deliver Link-16 tactical information system terminals that are smaller, lighter, and fully compatible with Joint Tactical Information Distribution System Class 2 terminals. The United States, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain have worked together to develop, test and produce a tactical information system terminal with reduced size, cost, and weight. These advantages make the MIDS- LVT more readily available for use in a wide variety of airborne platforms as well as maritime and ground applications.

As an integral part of the program's acquisition strategy, the MIDS-LVT systems implements an Open Systems Architecture and uses performance specifications to allow for continuous competition between MIDS vendors throughout the production phase. This strategy supports the implementation of transatlantic competition after the United States and European contractors have completed qualification efforts and established full rate production capabilities.

There are three variants of the MIDS terminal being procured by the MIDS International Program Office:

- MIDS-LVT (1) will be used by U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force aircraft as well as those of European nations.
- MIDS-LVT (2) will be used by army combat systems such as Patriot Missile Battery's for both the U.S. Army and military forces of the Republic of France.
- MIDS-LVT (3), also known as the Fighter Data Link, is already operational and has been deployed with U.S. Air Force F-15 fighter and strike aircraft.

The U.S. Defense Department currently plans to purchase 2,705 total MIDS terminals through the 2011 fiscal year. This number excludes spares and is subject to revision during each budget cycle depending on available funding. The planned purchase by type is 1,880 MIDS-LVT(1), 97 MIDS-LVT(2), and 728 MIDS-LVT(3) terminals.

The Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command is the Defense Department's contracting agency for the MIDS-LVT program. The acquisition strategy includes having two U.S. vendors and one European vendor. The U.S. vendors are Data Link Solutions (a limited liability company comprised of BAE Systems CNI Division and Rockwell Collins) and ViaSat, Inc. The European vendor is EuroMIDS, a consortium comprised of four companies -- one from each of the European MIDS participating nations. The companies comprising EuroMIDS are Thales (France), Marconi Mobile (Italy), Indra (Spain), and EADS (Germany).

Currently, the United States MIDS-LVT requirements are competed annually between the U.S. vendors with awards made using best value source selection procedures. European partner nation requirements for MIDS-LVT requirements are contracted to EuroMIDS on a directed sole source basis as set forth in the Program Memorandum of Understanding between the five MIDS nations. Competition between the three MIDS vendors for combined United States and European requirements may begin as early as the 2005 (American) fiscal year.

Current number of MIDS terminals ordered as of May 2002:

MIDS-LVT(1) United States

Current Platforms = USN F/A-18, Ships, EA-6B / USAF F-16, B-2, Airborne Laser /
OSD JITC Production = 257 units ordered including spares.
Potential Market = USN P-3, H-60, MH-60R, MH-60S/ USAF B-1, B-52, F-22/
Contractors =

Data Link Solutions

Lot 1 buy = 45 units
Lot 2 buy = 134 units
Lot 3 buy = PENDING

ViaSat

Lot 1 buy = 45 units
Lot 2 buy = 33 units
Lot 3 buy = PENDING



MIDS-LVT(2) United States

Current Platforms = U.S. Army PATRIOT, THAAD, AASROM
Production = 43 units ordered including spares
Potential Market = USA MEADS
Contractor = ViaSat
Lot 1 buy = 13
Lot 2 buy = 30
Lot 3 buy = PENDING



MIDS-LVT(3) Fighter Data Link United States

Current Platform = USAF F-15A/B/C/D/E
Production = 786 units ordered including spares
Potential Market = F-15 aircraft
Contractor = Data Link Solutions

MIDS-LVT – Europe

Current Platforms = EuroFighter 2000 (EF-2000)/ Rafale
Production = 344 units ordered
Potential Market = Tornado / Ships / Typhoon / ACCS
Contractor = EuroMIDS



MIDS-LVT Foreign Military Sales

Current Country/Platform = Australia F/A-18, Belgium F-16, Denmark F-16, Norway F-16, Switzerland F/A-18
Production = 17 units ordered
Potential Market = 14,235 units
Contractor for units ordered to date = Data Link Solutions

MIDS-LVT Direct Commercial Sales

Current Country/Platform = United Kingdom EF-2000, Spain EF-2000, Germany EF-2000, Netherlands F-16
Production = 107 units ordered
Potential Market = Included in FMS potential market
Contractors =
Data Link Solutions (104 units)
12 Spain EF-2000
16 Germany EF-2000
76 United Kingdom EF-2000
ViaSat (3 units)
3 Netherlands F-16